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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/731,106	12/06/2000	Jeffrey L. Jennings	48674/153	7933

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Jeffrey S. Gunderson
FOLEY & LARDNER
Firststar Center
777 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5367

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

DEXTER, CLARK F

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/731,106	Applicant(s) Jennings
Examiner Clark F. Dexter	Art Unit 3724



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 23, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 13, 14, and 20-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 12 and 15-18 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 5, 11, and 19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Species Ia (claims 1-12 and 15-19) in the response filed April 23, 2002 (paper no. 7) is acknowledged. Claims 13, 14 and 20-27 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention/species.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed March 9, 2001 (paper no. 5) has been received and the references listed thereon have been considered.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 4, line 9, "pronged wear" is unclear and appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that "pronged" should read --prolonged-- or the like.

On page 5, lines 4 and 15, the recitation "A further embodiment of" appears to be inaccurate since the same embodiment (i.e., the first embodiment) is being discussed, and it seems that "A further embodiment of" should be changed to --Further, -- or the like; in line 29, it seems that "still" should be deleted since this is the first discussion of the second embodiment.

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On page 6, line 9, the recitation “A further embodiment of” appears to be inaccurate since the same embodiment is being discussed, and it seems that “A further embodiment of” should be changed to --Further, -- or the like; in line 14, “mechanisms” appears to be inaccurate, and it seems that it should read --mechanism--.

On page 7, line 23, numeral 64 is shown (e.g., in Figure 1) but not described, and it seems that it should be inserted after “bore” or the like.

On page 9, line 20, “94” is inaccurate, and should read --84--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 12, it seems that a comma “,” is missing after “rotated” and should be added for clarity.

In claim 6, line 13, it seems that a comma “,” is missing after “rotated” and should be added for clarity.

Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 5, 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 5, lines 2-4, the recitation “configured such that pressure on the liner lock in a direction away from the front end results in a tightening of the bridge screw and eccentric nut” is vague and indefinite as to how the nut and screw are “configured”.

In claim 11, lines 2-4, the recitation “configured such that pressure on the liner lock in a direction away from the front end results in a tightening of the bridge screw and eccentric nut” is vague and indefinite as to how the nut and screw are “configured”.

In claim 19, lines 2-4, the recitation “configured such that pressure on the liner lock in a direction away from the opened blade results in a tightening of the bridge screw and eccentric nut” is vague and indefinite as to how the nut and screw are “configured”.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 12 and 15-18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

7. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are objected to for the reasons described above.

8. Claims 5, 11 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers for this group are: formal papers - (703)305-3579; informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cf
July 29, 2002